

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for billing for telephone services, said method comprising:

responsive to receiving a call request, identifying and loading a caller billing plan for an authenticated identity of a caller making said call request and a callee billing plan for an
10 authenticated identity of a callee answering said call request; and

responsive to detecting a billable service with said call request, distributing a cost of said billable service among said
15 caller billing plan and said callee billing plan, such that both said caller and said callee pay for a benefit received from said billable service.

- 20 2. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, wherein said billable service comprises at least one from among a long distance service, a collect calling service, and a wireless telephone service.

- 25 3. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving said call request from an origin device at a service provider from an origin line number utilized by said
30 origin device;

loading a profile for a line subscriber of said origin line number, wherein said profile comprises a billing plan for said line subscriber;

extending a dial tone to said origin device;

5 authenticating said identity of said caller utilizing said
origin device;

10 loading said caller billing plan according to said
authenticated identity to replace said billing plan for said line
subscriber;

loading a profile for a destination line subscriber of a
requested destination line number, wherein said profile comprises
a billing plan for said destination line subscriber;

15 extending a ring signal to a destination device via said
destination line number;

20 responsive to detecting an answer at said destination
device, authenticating said identity fo said callee utilizing
said destination device; and

loading said callee billing plan according to said
authenticated identity to replace said billing plan for said
destination line subscriber.

25 4. The method for billing for telephone services according to
claim 1, wherein said authenticated identity of said caller is
authenticated according to a voice utterance provided by said
caller.

30 5. The method for billing for telephone services according to
claim 1, wherein said authenticated identity of said callee is
authenticated according to a voice utterance provided by said
callee.

6. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, wherein authenticating an identity of a caller further comprises:

5 initiating authentication of said identity of said caller and said callee at an origin device, wherein said origin device is enabled to initiate said call request.

7. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, wherein authenticating an identity of a caller further comprises:

10 initiating authentication of said identity of said caller and said callee at an intermediary device processing said call Request.

8. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, wherein authenticating an identity of a caller further comprises:

15 initiating authentication of said identity of said caller and said callee at a destination device, wherein said destination device is enabled to receive said call request.

9. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, further comprising:

20 switching said call request from a first service provider associated with said caller billing plan to a second service provider associated with said callee billing plan.

10. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, wherein said caller is also a line subscriber of a line number utilized by said caller to make said call request.

11. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, wherein said caller is different from a line subscriber

of a line number utilized by said caller to make said call request.

12. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, wherein said callee is also a line subscriber of a line number utilized by said callee to receive said call request.

13. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, wherein said callee is different from a line subscriber of a line number utilized by said callee to receive said call request.

14. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, further comprising:

extending a request to said caller to elect to pay for a portion of said cost of said billable service; and

billing said caller billing plan according to said payment election.

15. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, further comprising:

extending a request to said callee to elect to pay for a portion of said cost of said billable service; and

billing said callee billing plan according to said payment election.

16. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, further comprising:

distributing said cost of said billable service evenly

between said caller billing plan and said callee billing plan.

17. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, further comprising:

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distributing said cost of said billable service to each of said caller billing plan and said callee billing plan according to actual percentage use by each of said caller and said callee.

10 18. A system for billing for telephone services, said system comprising:

a network controller;

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means responsive to receiving a call request, for identifying and loading a caller billing plan for an authenticated identity of a caller making said call request and a callee billing plan for an authenticated identity of a callee answering said call request at said network controller; and

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means responsive to detecting a billable service with said call request, for distributing a cost of said billable service among said caller billing plan and said callee billing plan.

25 19. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 18, wherein said billable service comprises at least one from among a long distance service, a collect calling service, and a wireless telephone service.

30 20. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 18, further comprising:

means for receiving said call request from an origin device at a service provider from an origin line number utilized by said

origin device;

means for loading a profile for a line subscriber of said
origin line number, wherein said profile comprises a billing plan
5 for said line subscriber;

means for extending a dial tone to said origin device;

means for authenticating said identity of said caller
10 utilizing said origin device;

means for loading said caller billing plan according to said
authenticated identity to replace said billing plan for said line
subscriber;

means for loading a profile for a destination line
subscriber of a requested destination line number, wherein said
profile comprises a billing plan for said destination line
subscriber;

means for extending a ring signal to a destination device
via said destination line number;

means responsive to detecting an answer at said destination
25 device, for authenticating said identity fo said callee utilizing
said destination device; and

means for loading said callee billing plan according to said
authenticated identity to replace said billing plan for said
30 destination line subscriber.

21. The system for billing for telephone services according to
claim 18, wherein said authenticated identity of said caller is
authenticated according to a voice utterance provided by said

caller.

22. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 18, wherein said authenticated identity of said callee is
5 authenticated according to a voice utterance provided by said callee.

23. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 18, wherein said means for authenticating an identity of a
10 caller further comprises:

means for initiating authentication of said identity of said caller and said callee at an origin device, wherein said origin device is enabled to initiate said call request.

24. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 18, wherein said means for authenticating an identity of a caller further comprises:

means for initiating authentication of said identity of said caller and said callee at an intermediary device processing said call request.

25. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 18, wherein said means for authenticating an identity of a caller further comprises:

means for initiating authentication of said identity of said caller and said callee at a destination device, wherein said destination device is enabled to receive said call request.

26. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 18, further comprising:

means for switching said call request from a first service provider associated with said caller billing plan to a second service provider associated with said callee billing plan.

5 27. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 18, wherein said caller is also a line subscriber of a line number utilized by said caller to make said call request.

10 28. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 18, wherein said caller is different from a line subscriber of a line number utilized by said caller to make said call request.

15 29. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 18, wherein said callee is also a line subscriber of a line number utilized by said callee to receive said call request.

20 30. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 18, wherein said callee is different from a line subscriber of a line number utilized by said callee to receive said call request.

25 31. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 18, further comprising:

means for extending a request to said caller to elect to pay for a portion of said cost of said billable service; and

30 means for billing said caller billing plan according to said payment election.

32. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 18, further comprising:

means for extending a request to said callee to elect to pay for a portion of said cost of said billable service; and

means for billing said callee billing plan according to said
5 payment election.

33. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 18, further comprising:

10 means for distributing said cost of said billable service evenly between said caller billing plan and said callee billing plan.

15 34. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 18, further comprising:

20 means for distributing said cost of said billable service to each of said caller billing plan and said callee billing plan according to actual percentage use by each of said caller and said callee.

35. A computer program product for billing for telephone services, said computer program product comprising:

25 a recording medium;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for identifying and loading a caller billing plan for an authenticated identity of a caller making a call request and a callee billing plan for
30 an authenticated identity of a callee answering said call request; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for distributing a cost of a billable service for said call request among said

caller billing plan and said callee billing plan.

36. The computer program product for billing for telephone services according to claim 35, further comprising:

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means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving said call request from an origin device at a service provider from an origin line number utilized by said origin device;

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means, recorded on said recording medium, for loading a profile for a line subscriber of said origin line number, wherein said profile comprises a billing plan for said line subscriber;

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means, recorded on said recording medium, for extending a dial tone to said origin device;

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means, recorded on said recording medium, for loading said caller billing plan according to said authenticated identity to replace said billing plan for said line subscriber;

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means, recorded on said recording medium, for loading a profile for a destination line subscriber of a requested destination line number, wherein said profile comprises a billing plan for said destination line subscriber;

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means, recorded on said recording medium, for extending a ring signal to a destination device via said destination line number;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for authenticating said identity of said callee utilizing said destination device;

and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for loading said
callee billing plan according to said authenticated identity to
5 replace said billing plan for said destination line subscriber.

37. The computer program product for billing for telephone
services according to claim 35, further comprising:

10 means, recorded on said recording medium, for initiating
authentication of said identity of said caller and said callee at
an origin device, wherein said origin device is enabled to
initiate said call request.

15 38. The computer program product for billing for telephone
services according to claim 35, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for initiating
authentication of said identity of said caller and said callee at
20 an intermediary device processing said call request.

39. The computer program product for billing for telephone
services according to claim 35, further comprising:

25 means, recorded on said recording medium, for initiating
authentication of said identity of said caller and said callee at
a destination device, wherein said destination device is enabled
to receive said call request.

30 40. The computer program product for billing for telephone
services according to claim 35, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for switching said
call request from a first service provider associated with said

caller billing plan to a second service provider associated with said callee billing plan.

41. The computer program product for billing for telephone
5 services according to claim 35, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for extending a request to said caller to elect to pay for a portion of said cost of said billable service; and

10 means, recorded on said recording medium, for billing said caller billing plan according to said payment election.

42. The computer program product for billing for telephone
15 services according to claim 35, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for extending a request to said callee to elect to pay for a portion of said cost of said billable service; and

20 means, recorded on said recording medium, for billing said callee billing plan according to said payment election.

43. The computer program product for billing for telephone
25 services according to claim 35, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for distributing said cost of said billable service evenly between said caller billing plan and said callee billing plan.

30 44. The computer program product for billing for telephone services according to claim 35, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for distributing

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